

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the  
**LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY**  
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library  
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied  
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)

DATE: 3-21-97

(Filing No. H-89 )

BANKING AND INSURANCE

Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the Clerk of the House.

STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
118TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 286, L.D. 350, "Resolve, to Establish a Task Force to Study the Feasibility of a Single Claims Processing System for 3rd-party Payors of Health Care Benefits"

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the title and before the summary and inserting in its place the following:

'Emergency preamble. Whereas, Acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, in current practice, 3rd-party payors of health care benefits use multiple claims processing systems; and

Whereas, other jurisdictions have begun exploring the feasibility of implementing a single claims processing system for all 3rd-party payors and are also exploring ways to streamline claims processing; and

Whereas, it is necessary to begin the study of the feasibility of a single claims processing system or a more streamlined system for 3rd-party payors of health care benefits in this State; and

Whereas, the members of the task force established by this resolve must be appointed prior to the expiration of the 90-day period; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore, be it

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

2           **Sec. 1. Task force established. Resolved:** That the Task Force to  
3 Study the Feasibility of a Single Claims Processing System for  
4 3rd-party Payors of Health Care Benefits, referred to in this  
5 resolve as the "task force," is established to study the  
6 feasibility of a streamlined claims processing system for  
7 3rd-party payors of health care benefits and to study the  
8 feasibility of a single claims processing system for 3rd-party  
9 payors of health care benefits; and be it further

10           **Sec. 2. Task force membership. Resolved:** That the task force  
11 consists of 15 members appointed as follows:

12           1. One representative of the Maine Medical Association or  
13 the Maine Osteopathic Association appointed by the Governor;

14           2. One Maine-based representative of the Health Insurance  
15 Association of America appointed by the Governor;

16           3. One representative of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of  
17 Maine appointed by the Governor;

18           4. One representative of the Home Care Alliance of Maine  
19 appointed by the Governor;

20           5. One representative of the interests of independent  
21 occupational, physical and speech therapists appointed by the  
22 Governor;

23           6. One representative of the Maine Pharmacy Association  
24 appointed by the Governor;

25           7. One representative of the Maine Hospital Association  
26 appointed by the Governor;

27           8. One representative of the Maine Association of Community  
28 Mental Health Centers appointed by the Governor;

29           9. One representative of the Maine Health Management  
30 Coalition appointed by the Governor;

31           10. The Commissioner of Human Services or the commissioner's  
32 designee;

33           11. The Superintendent of Insurance or the superintendent's  
34 designee; and

35           12. Two members of the Senate appointed by the President of  
36 the Senate and 2 members of the House of Representatives  
37 appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives. One  
38 member of the Senate and one member of the House shall serve as  
39 cochairs of the task force; and be it further

2           **Sec. 3. Appointments. Resolved:** That all appointments must be  
3 made no later than July 1, 1997. The Executive Director of the  
4 Legislative Council must be notified by all appointing  
5 authorities once the selections have been made. Within 15 days  
6 of appointment of all members, the Chair of the Legislative  
7 Council shall call and convene the first meeting of the task  
8 force; and be it further

10           **Sec. 4. Duties. Resolved:** That the task force shall:

12           1. Gather and examine information from other jurisdictions  
13 that have implemented a single claims processing system or have  
14 implemented a streamlined claims processing system;

16           2. Identify barriers and problems that need to be addressed  
17 to implement a single claims processing system or to streamline  
18 the current claims processing system;

20           3. Determine resources necessary to implement a single  
21 claims processing system or a streamlined system and develop a  
22 model for a single claims processing system;

24           4. Determine the impact on health care providers and health  
25 insurance carriers in a single claims processing system or a  
26 streamlined system; and

28           5. Identify the necessary steps for protecting the  
29 confidentiality of medical records and proprietary information in  
30 a single claims processing system or a streamlined system; and be  
31 it further

32           **Sec. 5. Staff assistance. Resolved:** That the task force shall  
33 request staffing and clerical assistance from the Legislative  
34 Council; and be it further

36           **Sec. 6. Reimbursement. Resolved:** That the members of the task  
37 force are not entitled to any reimbursement or compensation for  
38 attendance at meetings of the task force, except that the members  
39 of the task force who are Legislators are entitled to receive the  
40 legislative per diem and reimbursement for travel expenses for  
41 attendance at meetings of the task force. The Executive Director  
42 of the Legislative Council shall administer the task force's  
43 budget; and be it further

44           **Sec. 7. Report. Resolved:** That the task force shall submit its  
45 report, together with any necessary implementing legislation, to  
46 the Second Regular Session of the 118th Legislature no later than  
47 February 2, 1998. If the task force requires an extension, it  
48 may apply to the Legislative Council, which may grant the  
49 extension; and be it further

2  
4  
6  
8  
10  
12  
14  
16  
18  
20  
22  
24  
26  
28  
30  
32  
34  
36  
38  
40  
42  
44  
46  
48  
50

**Sec. 8. Appropriation. Resolved:** That the following funds are appropriated from the General Fund to carry out the purposes of this resolve.

**1997-98**

**LEGISLATURE**

**Task Force to Study the Feasibility of a Single Claims Processing System for 3rd-party Payors of Health Care Benefits**

Personal Services	\$1,760
All Other	2,100
<b>TOTAL</b>	<hr/> \$3,860

Provides funds for the per diem and expenses of legislative members and miscellaneous costs of the Task Force to Study the Feasibility of a Single Claims Processing System for 3rd-party Payors of Health Care Benefits.

**Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this resolve takes effect when approved.'

Further amend the bill by inserting at the end before the summary the following:

**FISCAL NOTE**

**1997-98**

**APPROPRIATIONS/ALLOCATIONS**

General Fund	\$3,860
--------------	---------

This bill includes a General Fund appropriation of \$3,860 in fiscal year 1997-98 for the Legislature for the per diem and expenses of legislative members and miscellaneous costs of the Task Force to Study the Feasibility of a Single Claims Processing System for 3rd-party Payors of Health Care Benefits.

The additional costs associated with providing staffing and clerical assistance to the task force can be absorbed by the Legislature utilizing existing budgeted resources.

2           The Department of Human Services and the Bureau of Insurance  
4           within the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation  
6           will incur some minor additional costs to participate as members  
          of the task force. These costs can be absorbed within the  
          respective agencies' existing budgeted resources.'

8

### SUMMARY

10

12           This amendment replaces the bill. It establishes the Task  
14           Force to Study the Feasibility of a Single Claims Processing  
          System for 3rd-party Payors of Health Care Benefits.

14

16           It also adds an emergency preamble, an emergency clause, an  
          appropriation section and a fiscal note to the bill.